

648 affairs, its defense, and its single tele-
206 phone line. Hunza pays no taxes to the
643 Pakistani Government. Instead, they
[65] are paid to the Mir, who is absolute
[622] ruler of the small border state. The Mir
[624] appoints an *arbop*, or village chief,
and a *chowkidar*, or local sergeant at
[627] arms, for each village. Local disputes
are tried by village chiefs. Anyone has
643 the right of appeal to the Mir's court,
692 which consists of the Mir, his heredi-
[648] tary grand vizier, plus the Mir-ap-
pointed chiefs of all the villages within
[68] walking distance of the palace. How-
ever, since the loser usually pays a fine
to the Mir's treasury, and the winner
traditionally gives the court a present
equal to the loser's fine, not many
795 cases are appealed. The Aga Khan
643 (literally "Grandfather King") is
spiritual leader of the Ismaili reli-

1889]

THE KING'S MINISTERS

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tion of his by marriage. The next few hours were 000
anxious, but gradually, after various pourparlers,
peace was restored. The Wazir came to see me in [645]●
the afternoon, accompanied by the Thum's treasurer,
an old villain who was the manager in all sales of
slaves; for though the Wazir was his right-hand man,
and his brain and hand had helped him to power, the
Chief would not trust him to see me alone. I gathered
enough, however, to show me that Wazir Dadu had
been no party to the day's folly, and that he was for
peace and friendliness with us. His companion made
the most of his opportunities by stealing, while my
attention was fixed on Dadu, an enamel matchbox
which was on the table. I found that the man I had
to thank for all the trouble was a scoundrel called
Daulat Shah, the son of one of the old Chief's head-
men, who used to go regularly to Kashmir with the
yearly tribute. On his death the Durbar discontinued
a pension they had been in the habit of giving him.
Daulat Shah claimed this as a right, and had been
refused. He was the man who had been reported to
me as "without hope" at Nagar. As I had declined
to promise that this pension should be continued to
him, he bided his time, and was taking his revenge.
Three years later came my turn, and we got more
than level.

After Dadu had left I strolled round camp, and
quietly gave orders that none of the fighting men
were to leave its precincts, and that the ammunition
boxes were to be opened up the moment it was dusk.

It was curious to see the different effect which the
knowledge of danger produced on the men in camp.
That there was danger all knew by this time, and